



KwaZulu-Natal, Scout Trail

REPORTING SCOUTING VIEWS AND NEWS IN KWAZULU-NATAL FOR OVER 60 YEARS


SCOUTS
South Africa

Raft Race

This annual KZN Scout Raft Race combined BP Sunday, held at Midmar Dam each year, just keeps on growing with over 1 000 people attending this year on the Sunday.

Most Scouts arrived on Friday afternoon and set up camp, spending much of Saturday working on their raft

construction. That evening a splendid camp fire was organised by the Square Law Rovers managing to finish off minutes before the heavens opened. A water awareness course was held on the Saturday with 12 adult leaders attending.

Up early on Sunday morning for a BP Sunday service on the banks of the dam at 08h00, with the first race of the day underway by 09h00 sharp.

By any standards, this is a big outdoor event to organise. Congratulations to Kevin Mc Queen, chief organiser and his team of Steve Thorne, Kevin Poole and their tent of ladies and able assistance of the Highway Rover Crew!

A wonderful weekend of Scouting fellowship allowing time for Scouts, adult leaders and families from all over KZN to interact and have fun.



Cubs race to cross the finish line.



Close finish after a hard fought race.



All girl crew leap off their raft to take well deserved first place.



1st Hillcrest take line honours in the enduro race.

A special BP Sunday service

What a wonderful BP service we had on the shore line of Midmar Dam.

As the thick early morning mist across the dam slowly lifted, over 400 Scouts and Cubs lined up on parade. It was fabulous to hear the 58th Durban Air Scouts band and see them lead a colourful collection of Group flags flapping in the gentle breeze onto the parade ground.

The service was led by Pedro Da Silva, 1st Cowies Hill Group Scouter with the Scout, Cub, Rover and Girl Guide promises being re-affirmed.



What a fantastic turn out, with over 300 scouts on parade for the BP Service.



The 58th Durban Air Scout band leads the colour party onto the parade ground.



Ainsley du Toit leading the BP Sunday open air service.

A lovely cake shared after the BP Sunday service went down well with tea.

Zululand District held a BP Sunday with a very good turnout of Scouts and Cubs from 1st Richards Bay, 1st Eshowe, Grantham Park and Old Mill. Adult leaders Liz Scates-Wood and Magda Nel from 1st Richards Bay, Jethro Hlope from Grantham Park and Old Mill and Gus van Vuuren from 1st Eshowe ensured that the service was a success while 1st Eshowe Troop Scouter, Ainsley du Toit led the service. Afterwards there was tea and a birthday BP Sunday cake kindly sponsored by Richards Bay Spar. A lovely service and time spent in memory of our Founder.



Pancake Day at Richards Bay

Shrove Tuesday (widely known as Pancake Day) is a day in February or March, preceding Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent), which is celebrated in many countries by consuming pancakes... And celebrate they did at 1st Richards Bay where Much fun was had with Shrove Tuesday enjoyed by both Cubs and Scouts. Lots of laughter and mishaps with the pancake tossing competition, but a great time was had by all. Thanks to Akela Magda Nel for organising everything.

Pack Scouter, Magda Nel ensured a steady flow of pancake mixture kept everyone in the running for the pancake tossing competition.

Robert Brighton gets ready to try his hand at tossing a pancake!



In School Scouts celebrate BP Sunday

Many school group scouts across KZN organised BP Sunday services in their Districts. Pictured below are scouts and cubs from uMzinyathi District being hosted by the Inquthu CMC as they take part in a well supported BP Sunday service.



BP Camp, Northern KZN

The Northern KZN District held their annual BP camp at the Wakkerstroom Birdlife Center from 21 – 23 February this year. Ladysmith, Newcastle and Vryheid Scouts and Cubs got together to explore the wetlands of Wakkerstroom, following a basic conservation theme. All present learnt about the value of wetlands and how important these elements of “ecological infrastructure” are to us all. While the Cubs worked on obtaining their naturalist and nature craft

badges, the Scouts focused on requirements for their hiking and conservation interest badges.

The weekend started off with a night hike around the wetland, much to the consternation of the police and local community who are not used to any movement in their quiet town at night! Bases on the Saturday focused on conservation projects such as erosion management and alien vegetation, as well

as a solar cooking base, where using basic materials, the Vryheid scouts managed to change temperatures of a pot of water by 14 degrees in 10 minutes. Not bad considering the cool temperatures experienced during the day.

A campfire under a few stars peeping through the clouds completed the day and ensured all Cubs slept through the night. Sunday saw the Cubs exploring the quaint town, while the Scouts did a session of bio-monitoring exercises in the local river, looking

for all living creatures to gauge the quality of the water.

The camp closed with the Vryheid Cubs leading a peaceful Scouts Own, and the awarding of pennants to the best performing patrol, and the VP Trophy (actually a wooden spoon!) to the Scouter with the greatest contribution to the spirit of the camp.

The Wakkerstroom Bird Life center is an ideal venue for Scouting, and with camp sites and dormitories, as well as a well equipped

kitchen and meeting area. It's situated next to a safe, vast wetland allowing Scouts to experience the outdoors and learn about the environment, as well as enjoy a sense of freedom not often experienced. It is well worth a visit, and the extremely competent staff makes the experience really worthwhile.

Cubs in the wetland.

Vryheid Cubs leading a peaceful Scouts Own.

Scouts identifying a number of insects while checking the health of our rivers.

Vryheid scouts and the VP trophy

Stirling bags the lot

Stirling Proctor from 1st Wandsbeck Cub Pack received a special certificate for being the first Cub to complete every badge, old and new in the cub badge book.

He also had full attendance for not missing a single cub meeting and outside events in the full four years Stirling has been a Cub.

"It was hard work, but I was determined to achieve this goal," said Stirling.

A delighted Stirling Proctor with his badge-filled sleeves and well deserved certificate.



Alistair Couchman is presented with his Scout parachute wings by Linda Loubser.

Why would you jump out of a perfectly good aeroplane?

You have probably wondered what it would be like to parachute. Would it be terrifying? Would you chicken out at the last minute? Sure you can watch videos of people parachuting on YouTube, but what does it really feel like? 1st Kloof Scouter assistant, Alistair Couchman, was recently presented with his Scout parachute wings by Linda Loubser, the 1st Kloof Pack Scouter. Not many Scouters achieve this award by making the required six static line parachute jumps. Those that have always wanted to know what parachuting is all about get in touch with Steve and he'll tell you what fun it can be – well done Steve!



1st Pinetown all girl Troop flourishes

Under the leadership of Troop Scouter Melanie Jacobsen, an all girl 1st Pinetown girl scout troop was formed in March 2012.

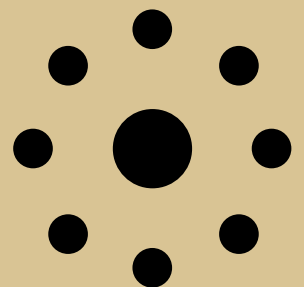
Starting with only four girls, two years later the Troop is now 16 girls strong." It took a while to get the ball rolling," said Melanie, "but I had a lot of support from the parents and committee and now have an assistant Troop Scouter and a Troop Leader, which is a big help."

"We also have an all boys troop at 1st Pinetown and there is a very healthy competition between the boys and girls. The girls get along so well with each other that we are like a little family. As their Troop Scouter, I am very proud of my girls and how far we have come along. Our aim is to grow the troop some more this year."



Gone Home

The sudden death of ex 1st Richards Bay Troop Scouter, Richard Chudoba, came as a huge shock to all of us. Richard came to 1st Richards Bay as a Rover Scout from the Bedford View Group and he was larger than life. He was promoted by Sanitech to their Northern Cape branch to assist down there with a big development. Richard passed away at the age of 26 from a massive pulmonary embolism. He is very sadly missed. To his Mom Ansie and family we extend our sincere sympathies of a much loved friend and scouting colleague.



Celebrating BPs birthday

A number of Groups around the province request permission for their Scouts and Cubs to attend school in their scout uniform for a day. This is normally done the nearest day to our Founders birthday, 22 February. Not only is this a sign of respect but it also serves as a wonderful opportunity to let folks know that scouting is alive and well in our communities.

This year was no exception as 1st Hillcrest Cubs and Brownies attended Winston Park Primary School in their uniform.

Winston Park School headmaster, Neville Green with 1st Hillcrest cubs and brownies.



1st Cowies Hill Air Cub, Luke Glock (8) stood in uniform in front of his whole school to tell everyone about Baden-Powell and Scouting. It was very brave for Luke to stand up in front of the whole school, and especially since 1st Cowies Hill cubs come from all different schools and he didn't have his Cub-friends to support him. Well Done Luke!

Luke Glock tells his school about what fun Scouting is.



Scouts show the way at community eco centre

The Jewish community in Durban celebrated an environmental festival, TuB'shavat at the Hammarsdale Eco-Centre. 1st Malvern Troop were invited to assist with backwoods style cooking with the children on the day. About 80 people attended and drew a very positive response from those present. They cooked eggs in oranges, twists, apples, raisins and potatoes in coals.

Leanne Cramer, event organiser said: "The enthusiasm and spirit that the scouts brought to the function was just invaluable and a lot of parents commented on what a good initiative the scouts movement is, especially in our day and age where there is in many instances decay in family values and caring for other people." Bravo 1st Malvern Troop.



Nicole Koekemoer and Priyendren Enoch with some of the children.



Devlan Govender helping the children prepare eggs in oranges.



Theolin Govender demonstrating twists.

A litter bit better



Making a difference, 1st Hillcrest Scouts and Keep Hillcrest Beautiful Association members pile up the rubbish they collected along the railway line on a Saturday afternoon.

Teaming up with Keep Hillcrest Beautiful Association, the 1st Hillcrest Scout and Guide Group spent an afternoon walking along the railway line armed with refuse plastic bags and rubber gloves picking up litter. The cubs and scouts managed to collect a huge pile of glass bottles, plastic bags and bottles, "It was hot hard work and wasn't easy picking up all the small bits of broken glass scattered in the grass," said 9 year old cub, Stuart Camp.

Afterwards the hard working scouts were treated to sponsored chicken burger, chips and a coke by Hillcrest Nandos.

"It's important that we work together to clean our communities" said Marge Michel, KHBA chairperson, "If we all do a bit, collectively we will make a significant improvement to beautifying our environment".

Looking for bugs

On 8 Feb 2014 the Cubs from Yellowwood Park and Shallcross went on an outing to the Stainbank Nature Reserve. This outing was planned by Bindhu Singh from Shallcross for her Wood badge. The theme was MiniSASS. The Cubs were also shown pollution along the river by Dave Joseph, a

ranger in the Reserve who led the group, mainly plastic bottles, some lodged high up in rocks when the river was in flood.

Louise Potgieter, Yellowwood Park Troop Scouter explained what they were going to do, why they were doing the tests, what they had to look out for, safety and showed

pictures of the macro invertebrates. The cubs enjoyed learning about the little creatures and were eager to see what they caught.

Some were disappointed that they didn't catch as many as other guys. At the car park, the Cubs completed their score sheets and received handouts from Bindhu.



Learning how to assess water invertebrate to tell you what the river water quality is like in your catchment.



KZN Rover success

The Rover Chairman's Course now renamed Rover Leadership Course was run over the weekend of 8th and 9th of March 2014.

The hosts, SIGMA Crew, were eager to share their Rovering knowledge by offering to guide the group as well as present some of the sessions. Cameron, SIGMA Crew Rover Scouter, recently attended the ALT Course and jumped at the opportunity to course direct this for the Crew.

SIGMA Rover Crew member, Carmen Jearey said, "The turnout

was excellent with 18 enthusiastic Rovers-to-be travelling from Pietermaritzburg, Empangeni and Greater Durban. The participants enjoyed themselves getting to meet fellow Rovers, asking questions and learning more. Although a few people thought the course was too short, we have made connection new friends and of course it goes without saying, Rovers help Rovers. Some of the popular sessions were, programme planning, crew ceremonies and the Rover programme and awards".

A special mention must go out to Gerard Evans (currently the National Commissioner for Rovers) who came down especially from Johannesburg to lead sessions and answer the broader questions that were raised and discussed.

Thank you to Beth Barkus for joining us on Sunday to go through the very important legal aspects of what we need to know as adults in the Movement.

Thank you to SIGMA Crew members for all the hard work and planning, including Hloniphile (Promise) Mapumulo and Cecilia Nmgoma for the Catering.



KZN Rovers take a break from their two day Rover Chairman's course



Supporting a good cause

Conservation is not always accepted by communities neighbouring protected areas.

For many people, protected areas are seen as pockets of affluence which are in stark contrast to their own impoverished reality, which often includes limited access to water, electricity and employment. There are also conflicts between communities and the goals of conservation in preserving wildlife, and poaching remains a challenge.

Ezemvelo has broadened its focus to become more relevant to communities, and community conservation officers who work in communities on a daily basis, fostering better relationships. More than 400 community Rhino Ambassadors have been appointed to create awareness and educate communities located adjacent to protected areas, on the importance of looking after the environment in general, and the protection of rhino specifically. 1st Hlushwana school scout group is one of these KwaZulu-Natal Community Rhino Ambassadors Projects who organised a very successful Arbour Day ceremony. This was held close to the Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Game Reserve in Zululand.

BP work party

Sadly BP Camp has suffered from a spate of vandalism and burglaries resulting in the theft of our much needed Scouting equipment. Under an initiative from Mark Francis, chairman of Stainbank and Coastal and his team a work party was organised to remove the remaining equipment to Escombe Scout Hall for safe keeping. A 10 ton truck was kindly sponsored which allowed all the equipment to be moved in one load. A VERY BIG thanks to all who made this possible and for helping on the day.

This was also an opportunity to clean up the store rooms while the truck was being loaded up.





A Scout is a friend to all and a brother/sister to every other Scout

Of the 30 badges earned by Christine Potgieter from 1st Yellowwood Park in the Stainbank District as a Cub, the World friendship badge has had the most meaning for her. One of the badge requirements was that she correspond with a cub in another country. She found 10 year old Alex, a Cub living in Kenya, Nairobi and they started corresponding. Alex is doing his Nyota 2 link badge. He lives with his dad and sister (7) and brother (14). Alex's mom died from cancer when he was 5. He sleeps on the floor and has no shoes. His biggest dream was to attend school.

"He humbly asked if we could assist to pay his school fees," said Christine, "which we are doing. Soon he will write exams and we'll see his report. Alex is very thankful for all that he receives. He is of the Masai culture where cattle, grass and wildlife are sacred to them."

"As a family we have done some fund raising to help Alex with shoes, stationary, and would love to get other people involved to help him," said Christine. "I think it's very good when scouts help out other more needy scouts and can make a big difference in their lives," she said.

Anyone who would like to assist Alex please get in touch with 1st Yellowwood Troop Scouter, Louise Potgieter – 079 696 3245.



Diary Dates

April 2014

5-6	Permit Phase Training
12	KZN Strategic Review

May 2014

17-18	Cub & Scout Wood Badge Course
31 May - 1 June	Cub & Scout Wood Badge Course

June 2014

1	Cub & Scout Wood Badge Course
7-8	Cub & Scout Warrant Course
20-22	Cub & Scout Warrant Course
22	KZN Awards by the Chief Scout

July 2014

2-12	Lexden PLTU course
26-27	Oars Charge
26	Campfire Leaders
27	Jungle Background Course

August 2014

2-3	Tutor Course by Invitation only
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Will you be at the next World Scout Jamboree?

Between 28th July and 8th August 2015, Scouts from across South Africa will be joining tens of thousands of other Scouts from almost every country in the world in Kirara-hama, Japan. For ten days they will live together, experience each other's cultures, take part in exciting activities and have an amazing adventure, the 23rd World Scout Jamboree! This is a Scouting Adventure of a lifetime!!

To be a Scout or Ranger participant at the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in Japan 2015, you need to have turned 14 but not yet had your 18th birthday at the start of the Jamboree. This means that if you were born ...

- between 27th July 1997 and 28th July 2001 you can attend as a Scout participant,
- after 28th July 2001 you'll have to wait for a future Jamboree.

The current Rand exchange rate against world currencies has not been kind to us! We are currently finalizing our budgets, consulting with a number of travel agents and various suppliers and anticipate that the Jamboree fee will be in the region of R30,000 to R35,000 per participant.

This is an experience of a life time and would highly recommend that if you're eligible to try and make a plan to be part of this amazing scouting kaleidoscope of cultures and adventure.

Please email jamboree@scouting.org.za for any queries.